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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 24, 2003**

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
**HARRIET BERNICK**  
Telephone: (602) 514-7736  
Pager: (602) 356-0004

### **SELLS MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON FOR DRUG CONVICTION**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA** –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announces that on July 24, 2003, Darnell Edward Encinas, D.O.B.3/13/78, of Sells, Arizona, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment, to be followed by five years of supervised release, by United States District Judge David C. Bury, in Tucson, Arizona.

On January 30, 2003, Mr. Encinas entered a plea of guilty to a charge of possessing with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana and made the following admissions in his written plea agreement:

On July 11, 2000, and again on July 12, 2000, backpackers delivered marijuana, totaling approximately 100-400 kilograms, to Harrison Lewis at the his residence located near Sells, on the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation in the District of Arizona. On July 12, 2000, Harrison Lewis, Lorraine Lewis, Ralph Pablo and I took some of marijuana to Tucson, Arizona in vehicles, leaving the remainder at the Lewis residence being watched by one of the backpackers.

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After delivering the marijuana in Tucson, we returned to the Lewis residence in Sells at approximately 11:00 p.m., where the remainder of the marijuana was located. Several of the others partied in the kitchen/living area of the house until approximately 5:00 a.m. on July 13, 2000, when Harrison Lewis shot himself. I assisted Lorraine Lewis and others in moving the remaining marijuana out of the house before the police arrived. I knew it was illegal to possess marijuana with intent to distribute it.

At the sentencing hearing Judge Bury assessed the defendant responsible for the gun that Harrison Lewis used to kill himself. The court noted the defendant possessed the weapon in connection with the drug trafficking offense; the gun was owned by the defendant; and the defendant supplied the gun to another person when he left the house to take a portion of the marijuana to Tucson and told the person to use the gun to protect herself should the "backpacker" who was guarding the marijuana in the other room give her any trouble.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly U.S. Customs), Tohono O'Odham Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-460-TUC-DCB  
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